Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CANBER 05569 01 OF 02 140906Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05
EB-08 COME-00 DPW-01 /082 W
----------015581 140929Z /23
O R 140800Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3791
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
CINCPAC
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SUVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CANBERRA 5569

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: VN AS ASEAN

SUBJECT: PHAN HIEN VISIT TO CANBERRA

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. HEAD OF INDOCHINA SECTION AT FOREIGN OFFICE GAVE EMBOFF FULL DEBRIEFING ON FIRST DAY OF VISIT TO AUSTRALIA BY SRV VICE FOREIGN MINISTER PHAN HIEN. IN GENERAL, DISCUSSIONS WITH GOA HAVE GONE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CANBER 05569 01 OF 02 140906Z

BETTER THAN WERE ANTICIPATED, AND HAVE FLOWED EASILY AND IN RELAXED ATMOSPHERE ON BOTH SIDES. VIETNAMESE ARE BEING FRIENDLY, POSITVE, AND RECEPTIVE -- IF ALSO A BIT ELLIPTICAL. SESSIONS ARE BEING BILLED AS "FRANK AND CORDIAL EXCHANGES OF VIEWS", NOT AS NEGO-TIATING SESSIONS -- THERE BEING NOTHING IN PARTICULAR TO "NEGOTIATE". AUSTRALIANS ARE NOW SATISFIED THAT

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

PHAN HIEN'S TRIP IS INTENDED MAINLY TO UNDERSCORE VIETNAM'S
DESIRE TO HAVE ACCEPTABLE RELATIONS WITH ALL SIDES,
AND NOT TO GET THEMSELVES DUG IN TOO CLOSELY WITH
THE SOVIETS OR ISOLATED FROM THE REMAINDER OF THE REGION IN
WHICH THEY LIVE." END SUMMARY.

2. PHAN HIEN ARRIVED YESTERDAY MORNING IN SYDNEY WITH
AN ENTOURAGE CONSISTING OF HIMSELF, HOANG HOAN NGHINH
(DPUETY DIRECTOR OF ASIAN AFFAIRS, SRV/MFA), NGUYEN HAI
(AUSTRALIA/NZ DESK, SRV/MFA), AND PHAN DUC THONG
(INTERPRETER). A GROUP OF ANTI-COMMUNIST VIETNAMESE
ENGAGED IN SCUFFLED WITH VIETNAMESE WELCOMING PHAN HIEN
AT SYDNEY AIRPOT, BUT HE WAS WHISKED OUT A BACK DOOR
TO THE VIP LOUNGE WITHOUT EVER SEEING THE DEMONSTRATORS.
THERE HAVE BEEN NO FURTHER SUCH SCENES SINCE HIS ARRIVAL.

3. THE FIRST FORMAL MEETINGS WITH GOA OFFICIALS
OCCURRED ON THURSDAY AFTERNOON WHEN PHAN HIEN SAW
ANDREW PEACOCK FOR ALMOST TWO HOURS; THIS WAS FOLLOWED
BY A 20-MINUTE SESSION WITH PRIME MINISTER FRASER, AND
DISCUSSION-WITH DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND DEPARTMENT
OF TRADE AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICIALS THIS MORNING.
PEACOCK GAVE A DINNER FOR THE VIETNAMESE LAST NIGHT
AND WAS QUITE PLEASED WITH THE VIETNAMESE' ATTITUDE,
ACCORDING TO ROWEN OSBORN (FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
NORTH AND SOUTH ASIA DIVISION.)
CONFIDENTIAL

4. DETAILED TALKS WITH DFA OFFICIALS COVERED VIETNAM'S
RELATIONS WITH ASEAN, CHINA, THE USSR, AND THE USA AND JAPAN,
EVENTS IN INDOCHINA, BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA,
AND REFUGEES.

5. PHAN HIEN BEGAN BY DESCRIBING HIS VISIT TO TOKYO,
WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS "VERY SUCCESSFUL". SINCE HIS
DESCRIPTION TO THE GOA VERY CLOSELY RESEMBLES ACCOUNTS
REPORTED BY AMEMBASSY TOKYO, WE WILL NOT REPEAT THEM HERE:
THEIR ESSENCE WAS THAT VIETNAM SOUGHT A COOPERATIVE
LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP WITH JAPAN "WHICH WOULD HAVE MANY
FACETS". PHAN HIEN SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT BOTH
SIDES UNDERSTOOD THE NEED FOR THEIR OWN INDEPENDENCE AND
SOVEREIGNTY. THE JAPANESE OFFERED VIETNAM A 10 BILLION YEN
LOAN AND PROMISED ANOTHER 10 BILLION YEN FOR 1979 WHICH
THE VIETNAMESE CAN USE FOR PURCHASES OF GOODS AND EQUIP-
MENT FROM JAPAN, THE OECD COUNTRIES, AND THEIR OWN SOUTH-
EAST ASIAN NEIGHBORS.

6. ASEAN: PHAN HIEN DESCRIBED VIETNAM'S VIEW OF ASEAN
AS AN ORGANIZATION "FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION" WITH WHICH

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

VIETNAM WOULD STRIVE TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS. HE SAID
THAT DURING THE COURSE OF RECENT MONTHS AND IN THE NEXT,
HE HOPED TO VISIT ALL ASEAN MEMBER STATES IN TURN,
PUTTING ACROSS VIETNAM'S DESIRE FOR FRIENDLY, FRUITFUL
RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS, WITH RESPECT TO ZOPFAN,
VIETNAM PUT ITS VIEWS TO ITS SE ASIAN NEIGHBORS,
HOPING TO FIND A PATH "TOWARD PEACE AND NEUTRALITY IN
SE ASIA" --- WHICH PHAN HIEN BELIEVED WAS A MUCH SOUTH
AFTER GOAL OF THE REGION TODAY, ALTHOUGH PEACOCK TRIED
TO DRAW PAHN HIEN OUT ON VIETNAM'S INTENTION RE POSSIBLE
ASSOCIATION WITH ASEAN, PHAN HIEN CONFINED HIS REMARKS
TO HOPES FOR THE PROSPERITY OF ASEAN.

7. CHINE: PHAN HIEN SEEMED A BIT ON THE DEFENSIVE IN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 CANBER 05569 01 OF 02 140906Z

REFERENCES TO CHINA RECALLING THAT VIETNAM HAD LIVED IN
FRIENDSHIP WITH CHINA IN THE PAST AND HOPED IT WOULD IN
THE FUTURE. THIS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE, PHAN HIEN SAID,
IF THE PRC PERSISTED IN VIOLATING VIETNAM'S INDEPENDENCE
AND SOVERIGNTY. CHINESE ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM WAS A
FIGMENT OF THE IMAGINATION; THEY AT ONE TIME HAD OVER
100 PROJECTS, THEN CUTTING 21 OF THESE, AND THEN A FURTHER
51, AND FINALLY THE REST. "BUT THEY WERE ONLY ON PAPER
ANYWAY --- THEY WEREN'T CARRIED OUT." CHINA IS ASSISTING
KAMPUCHEA, HAVING HELPED IT STRENGTHEN FROM 3 TO 17
DIVISIONS ON VIETNAM'S BORDERS. CHINA HAS FURTHER CREATED
TWO PROBLEMS WITH VIETNAM BUT TELLING "THE HOA PEOPLE"
THAT IF THEY DIDN'T RETURN TO CHINA THEY WOULD BE REGARDED
AS DESERTERS.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CANBER 05569 02 OF 02 140913Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05
EB-08 COME-00 DPW-01 /082 W
----------015697 140929Z /23

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

O R 140800Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3792
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SNGAPORE
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMAASSY MANIAL
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
CINCPAC
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSYMOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SUVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 CANBERRA 5569

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

8. THE USSR AND COMECON: PHAN HIEN DID NOT SPEND A GREAT DEAL OF TIME ON THE SOVIET SIDE OF THE EQUATION OTHER THAN NOTING THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN OF CONSIDERABLE ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM IN ITS RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS, VIETNAM JOINED COMECON HOPING FOR FURTHER ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. PEACOCK, ASKING ABOUT POSSIBLE SOVIET PRESENCE AT CAM RANH, DREW PHAN HIEN INTO THE FLAT DENIAL THAT THE SOVIETS WERE INVOLVED THERE: "VIETNAM DIDN'T NEED FOREIGN BASES DURING ITS WAS FOR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CANBER 05569 02 OF 02 140913Z

INDEPENDENCE AND DOESN'T NEED THEM NOW," PHAN HIEN SAID. PEACOCK SAID HE WAS SURE THIS WAS THE CASE, AND NOTED THAT THE US HAS BEEN SPREADING THE WORD AMONG THE PRESS THAT REPORTS OF SOVIET ACTIVITIES AT CAM RANH DO NOT APPEAR TO BE TURE. PHAN HIEN INDICATED THAT VIETNAM WAS AWARE THAT THE US WAS TRYING TO DISCREDIT THESE REPORTS, ADDING THAT HE WAS SURE THAT IF THERE WERE ANY SIGNS OF SOVIET INVOLVEMENT THERE AMERICAN SATELLITES WOULD BE THE FIRST TO PICK THEM UP.

9. RELATIONS WITH THE USA: PHAN HIEN SAID VIETNAM HAD NO PROBLEMS WITH THE ANZUS COUNTRIES, AND WANTED GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL OF THEM. EACH SIDE, HOWEVER, HAD TO DEMONSTRATE GOOD WILL AND AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEEDS OF THE OTHER. HE INDICATED THAT VIETNAM HAD PUT FORWARD THREE POINTS TO THE US FOR NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS: (1) THE MISSING-IN-ACTION QUESTION;

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

(2) THE QUESTION OF "CONTRIBUTIONS FOR HEALING THE WOUNDS OF WAR"; AND (3) FORMAL NORMALIZATION OF DIP-LOMATIC RELATIONS. HAN HIEN SAID THE FACT OF VIETNAM'S MISSION TO THE CENTERAL IDENTIFICATION LABORATORY IN HONOLULU WAS PROOF THAT THE MIA QUESTION WAS NOT LINKED TO THE QUESTION OF "HEALING THE WOUNDS OF WAR" (THE APPARENT EUPHEMISM FOR "REPARATIONS" WHICH THE VIETNAMESE AND AUSTRALIANS ARE USING DURING THEIR CONVERSATIONS). PHAN HIEN INDICATED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE PROBLEM THE US GOVERNMENT FACED WITH CONGRESSIONAL RESISTENCE TO NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. PEACOCK PRESSED HIM BY SAYING "IF THEN THERE IS MOVEMENT ON THE FIRST OF YOUR POINTS AND THERE ARE SOME PROBLEMS ON THE SECOND, WHERE DOES THIS LEAVE YOU WITH NO. 3?" PHAN HIEN, AFTER BEATING AROUND THE BUSH A BIT, AT ONE POINT CLEARLY SAID CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CANBER 05569 02 OF 02 140913Z

(ACCORDING TO OUR AUSTRALIAN SOURCE) "WE COULD NORMALIZE RELATIONS FIRST AND THEN WORK ON THE OTHER TWO PROBLEMS" --- WHICH THE AUSTRALIANS BELIEVE MAY SIGNAL VIETNAM WILLING-NESS TO PUT THE QUESTION OF REPARATIONS ASIDE FOR THE TIME BEING. PEACOCK MADE THE POINT THAT A REDUCTION OF CRITICAL STATEMENTS ON BOTH SIDES (VIETNAM AND THE US) WOULD HELP EASE THE WAY TOWARDS NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. PHAN HIEN AGREED, SAYING THIS WOULD COME WITH TIME.

10. BILATERAL VIETNAM RELATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA:
THE VIETNAMESE EXPRESSED GENERAL INTEREST IN AUSTRALIAN ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM, WITH THE GOA EXPLAINING THAT THIS WOULD BE A FUNCTION OF BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS AND THE GENERAL POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE. THE VIETNAMESE DID NOT COME EXPECTING TO DISCUSS SPECIFICS OF AID PROGRAMS, HOWEVER, AND DID NOT PRESS THE AUSTRALIANS ON THIS POINT.

11. REFUGEES: PEACOCK FINALLY ASKED PHAN HIEN ABOUT THE PROBLEMS WICH HAVE LED TO THE REFUGEE EXODUS. PHAN HIEN RECITED A LONG LITANY OF PROBLEMS THROUGH WAR, REVOLUTION, AND RECONSTRUCTION, WHICH HAVE LED "SOME ELEMENTS" TO WANT TO LEAVE VIETNAM. HIS TONE WAS NOT VINDICTIVE, HOWEVER, AND HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT AUSTRALIA COULD NOT REFUSE TO ACCEPT THESE REFUGEES, RETURNING THEM TO THE SEA. PHAN HIEN GAVE NO SIGN THAT THE SRV WAS EITHER ENCOURAGING MIGRATION OR DISCOURAGING IT, BUT RATHER INDICATED THAT THE REFUGEE EXODUS SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS A SIGN OF PROFOUND DISCOUNT WITHIN VIETNAM, AND SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO INTERFERE WITH CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN VIETNAM AND AUSTRALIA.

12. COMMENT: WE ARE QUITE CERTAIN THAT PEACOCK WILL

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

WISH TO WRITE TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE AFTER PHAN HIEN'S DEPARTURE EARLY NEXT WEEK.
PHAN HIEN IS MEETING LATER THIS AFTERNOON IT OFFICIALS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 CANBER 05569 02 OF 02 140913Z

FROM AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENTS OF PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET,
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE AND RESOURCES. WE
WILL REPORT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS, IF ANY OCCUR. PHAN
HIEN AND HIS ENTOURAGE DEPART SATURDAY MORNING FOR THE
MURRUMBIDGEE IRRIGATION SCHEME, SYDNEY AND PORT KEMBLA
COAL AND STEEL WORKS. THERE WILL BE FURTHER SESSIONS
IN CANBERRA ON MONDAY, AND PHAN HIEN DEPARTS TUESDAY
FOR WELLINGTON.
ALSTON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RELATIONS WITH REGIONAL ORGS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CANBER05569
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780288-1008
Format: TEL
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780760/aaaabyry.tel
Line Count: 296
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7a159e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2010683
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PHAN HIEN VISIT TO CANBERRA
TAGS: PORG, OVIP, VM, AS, ASEAN, (PHAN HIEN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7a159e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014